



House of Representatives

File No. 768

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

(Reprint of File No. 492)

Substitute House Bill No. 5820
As Amended by House Amendment Schedule
"A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 1, 2008

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR PRIVATE WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES AND FOR OTHER SUBJECT AREAS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
5 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
6 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
7 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
8 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
9 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
10 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school
11 graduation requirement upon completion of a world language course
12 offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student
13 achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within
14 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such
15 credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the high school

16 graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a
17 subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within
18 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education,
19 regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school
20 classroom learning such subject matter; or [(2)] (4) toward meeting the
21 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
22 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher
23 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,
24 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
25 purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2008	10-221a(e)
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The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	60,000-80,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill permits local boards of education to extend student credit towards meeting the high school graduation requirement if the student completes a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and passes a subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education, within available appropriations.

It is estimated that it would cost the State Department of Education (SDE) between \$60,000 and \$80,000 (per subject area) to develop subject area proficiency tests, including: approving each examination that would be used to grant credit, the determination of appropriate subject matter to be tested, selecting or developing an appropriate examination, and establishing a standard to be used as a passing score. It is anticipated that the costs to develop the subject area proficiency tests would only be incurred in FY 09, as they are one-time in nature. sHB 5021, the budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, did not include funding for this purpose and therefore, SDE would have to shift resources from other areas to accomplish this task.

House "A" requires that the subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education be done so within

available appropriations.

The Out Years

There is no annualized ongoing fiscal impact, as the costs are one-time in nature.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5820 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR PRIVATE
WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES AND FOR OTHER SUBJECT
AREAS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits local boards to give a student credit towards meeting the high school graduation requirements for (1) completing a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and (2) passing a subject area proficiency test the education commissioner identifies and approves. The bill allows boards to grant up to four credits for a private nonprofit world language course if the student achieves a passing grade on a commissioner-prescribed test. Boards can grant credits to students passing the proficiency tests regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school classroom learning the subject matter. The commissioner must prescribe or identify and approve the examinations within available appropriations.

By law, students must have at least 20 credits to graduate from high school, with 14 of those in statutorily specified subjects. Currently, only courses taken in grades nine through 12 can satisfy the graduation requirement, except that boards may give high school credit for advanced courses taken in seventh and eighth grade and for coursework taken at an accredited higher education institution.

*House Amendment "A" adds the "within available appropriations" requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 51 Nay 0 (04/15/2008)